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FOLLOWING THE EUROPEAN SUMMIT MEETING IN THE HAGUE

The Community Decides to Organize the Joint Research Centre as the Chosen Instrument of European Cooperation

The problem of Euratom had for some time - not to mince matters - polluted the atmosphere in which the Community is striving to promote European cooperation in the field of research and technology. For there can be no way forward without first overcoming the inevitable difficulties involved in the rejigging needed by an instrument conceived over ten years ago, when nucleonics was still in the laboratory stage, so as to adapt it to the present stage of development - itself requiring better organization - of a genuine European nuclear industry.

At their meeting in The Hague on 1 and 2 December, the Heads of State of the Community countries reaffirmed their:

"determination to continue and intensify the Community's activities aimed at coordination and fostering research and industrial development in the leading growth sectors, notably by means of Community programmes, and to make the required funds available".

(Item 9 of the final
communiqué)

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They agreed on:

"the need to make further efforts to formulate for the European Atomic Energy Community in the near future a research programme geared to the requirements of modern industrial management and enabling the most efficient use to be made of the Joint Research Centre".

(Item 10 of the final communiqué)

The Community countries' Science Ministers, meeting in Brussels on 6 December, endorsed this unanimous determination. Five main points stand out in the resolution adopted by them (the text of which is appended):

1. The Joint Research Centre, hitherto restricted to nuclear tasks - more of which can henceforward be assumed by industry - will be free to carry out non-nuclear scientific and technological research work, particularly on projects which the "Six" and certain non-member countries decide to undertake on a joint basis and which stem from the activities of the Working Group on Scientific and Technical Research Policy (known as the "Aigrain Group").
2. In addition to the joint programme, the Joint Research Centre will carry out special programmes and tasks on a contract basis.
3. Its organization, working procedures and administration - in short, its management - will then be modified so as to make it a more effective instrument for coordinating and carrying out the next multiannual research programme.
4. Pending the implementation of these plans, the capabilities of the Joint Research Centre (in terms of funding and manpower) will be maintained at their present level and all the items laid down in the Euratom nuclear research programme for 1969 (see "Research & Technology" No. 9) will be carried over

into 1970 and, if necessary, 1971, on the understanding that, from 1970 onwards, the programme must be aimed mainly at fostering wide-ranging European cooperation in the field of advanced reactors, particularly fast reactors.

5. A decision on the European Commission's proposals regarding the long-term supply of enriched uranium (see "Research and Technology" No. 18) will be taken in 1970.

This extricates Euratom from its impasse and marks the first step towards equipping Europe with a Joint Research Centre devoted to science and technology as a whole - a chosen instrument of the European cooperation developing in this field. As the Commission has often emphasized, the problem was a political one. And the solution was achieved on the political level.

Resolution adopted by the
Community's Council of Ministers on
6 December 1969

"Following a further review of the problem of Euratom's future activities, the Council

- acting upon the agreements reached by the Heads of State or Government at their meeting in The Hague on 1 and 2 December and particularly the expression of determination contained in paragraphs 9 and 10 of the final communiqué;
- realizing the need for a reorientation of the Joint Research Centre's programmes and for better methods of management;
 - a) hereby decides to make the JRC envisaged in Article 8 of the Treaty establishing Euratom an effective and appropriate Community instrument for the performance of the tasks that will be assigned to it in the nuclear field in the form of either a joint programme, special programmes or work to be carried out on request and against payment;
 - b) decides that the JRC's facilities can be used for non-nuclear scientific and technological research, notably as a result of such decisions as may be taken in the context of the cooperation plans proposed by the six Member States of the Community to other European States. With this in view, the Council agrees to undertake without delay, and in close cooperation with the Commission, a study of the options in this area, having regard in particular to the qualifications of the personnel employed, and of the legal provisions to be adopted for this purpose;
 - c) decides to instruct the Committee of Permanent Representatives to frame, without delay, in close cooperation with the Commission and without prejudice to the responsibilities laid upon the latter by the Treaty, proposals aimed at strengthening the organization of the JRC's management with a view to ensuring better coordination of nuclear activities within the Community, greater flexibility in the formulation and implementation

of Euratom's research programmes and greater efficiency in the administration of the JRC, and to prepare the ground for the decisions to be reached by the competent authorities to enable whatever measures may prove necessary for this purpose to be put into effect;

- d) agrees, pending the solution of the problems referred to in b) and c) above, to extend the Euratom research and training programme for 1969 for a period of one year and to maintain the present strength of the JRC throughout that period. During this time the Council will adopt a new multiannual programme based on the principles set forth in b) and c) above; During the said period the Council:

- (i) will take the first decisions to promote the widest possible cooperation in the field of advanced reactors, and in particular fast reactors, and with this in view directs the Committee of Permanent Representatives to study the various proposals and suggestions submitted in this field;
- (ii) will give its decision on the Commission's proposal concerning the long-term supply of enriched uranium.

In the event of the work envisaged in b) and c) above not being completed by the end of 1970, the 1969 programme will be extended for a further year".